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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/705,336	11/10/2003	Toshiaki Irie	04995/128001	5133

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EXAMINER

FINDLEY, CHRISTOPHER G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/03/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/705,336	Applicant(s) IRIE, TOSHIAKI	
	Examiner Christopher Findley	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/10/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. **Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Osakabe (US 6400280 B1).**

Re claim 1, Osakabe discloses a composite audio-video apparatus comprising: first and second image reproduce sections for reproducing images respectively recorded in different mediums (Osakabe: Fig. 3, DVCR 23 and DVD 24); first and second control sections for respectively controlling the first and the second image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3, the DVCR and DVD are independent devices with their own local control circuitry); an operation command informing section, including a remote operating section, for informing the first and the second control section of an inputted operation command (Osakabe: Fig. 3, Digital TV 21; Fig. 12); and an image output section for selectively outputting an image reproduced by the first or the second image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3, Digital TV 21); wherein the first control section includes a changeover control section for controlling to change over an image input source of the image output section (Osakabe: column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, a device is activated depending on the Destination_ID); the second control section outputs a direction signal to the first control section only when the operating

command inputted from the operation command informing section is a specific operation command which has been previously set for the second image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3, when the second unit (DVD 24) communicates back to the Digital TV 21, the commands and data are relayed through the first unit (DVCR 23) depending on the specific device selected by the user); and the first control section changes over the image output section so that an image reproduced by the second image reproduce section is outputted in the case where the first control section receives the direction signal, and the first control section changes over the image output section so that an image reproduced by the first image reproduce section is outputted in the case where the operation command inputted from the operation command informing section is a specific operation command which has been previously set for the first image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3; column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, the Digital TV 21 displays the picture from the device corresponding to the user selection, where the Destination_ID specifically selects a certain device in the device chain).

Re claim 2, Osakabe discloses a composite audio-video apparatus comprising: first and second image reproduce sections for reproducing images respectively recorded in different mediums (Osakabe: Fig. 3, DVCR 23 and DVD 24); first and second control sections for respectively controlling the first and the second image reproduce sections (Osakabe: Fig. 3, the DVCR and DVD are independent devices with their own local control circuitry); an operation command informing section for informing the first and the second control sections of an inputted operation command (Osakabe:

Fig. 3, Digital TV 21; Fig. 12); and an image output section for selectively outputting an image reproduced by the first or the second image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3, Digital TV 21); wherein the first control section includes a changeover control section for controlling to change over an image input source of the image output section (Osakabe: column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, a device is activated depending on the Destination_ID); the second control section outputs a direction signal to the first control section when the operating command inputted from the operation command informing section is an operation command for the second image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3, when the second unit (DVD 24) communicates back to the Digital TV 21, the commands and data are relayed through the first unit (DVCR 23) depending on the specific device selected by the user); and the first control section changes over the image output section so that an image reproduced by the second image reproduce section is outputted in the case where the first control section receives the direction signal, and the first control section changes over the image output section so that an image reproduced by the first image reproduce section is outputted in the case where the operation command inputted from the operation command informing section is an operation command for the first image reproduce section (Osakabe: Fig. 3; column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, the Digital TV 21 displays the picture from the device corresponding to the user selection, where the Destination_ID specifically selects a certain device in the device chain).

Re claim 3, Osakabe discloses that the first control section includes a discrimination section for discriminating whether or not the operation command is a

specific operation command which has been previously set for the first image reproduce section when the operation command for the first image reproduce section is inputted to the first control section (Osakabe: column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, the specific device according to the specific Destination_ID is selected); and only when the operation command is the specific operation command for the first image reproduce section, the first control section changes over the image output section so that an image from the first image reproduce section is outputted (Osakabe: Fig. 3; column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, if the command is intended for the second device, the first device ignores the command and relays it to the second device).

Re claim 4, Osakabe discloses that the second control section includes a discrimination section for discriminating whether or not the operation command is a specific operation command which has been previously set for the second image reproduce section when the operation command for the second image reproduce section is inputted to the second control section (Osakabe: column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, the specific device according to the specific Destination_ID is selected); and only when the operation command is the specific operation command for the second image reproduce section, the direction command is outputted to the first control section (Osakabe: Fig. 3; column 5, line 59, through column 6, line 9; column 6, line 57, through column 7, line 12, if the command is intended for the second device, the first device ignores the command and

relays it to the second device and the response from the second device is relayed through the first device)).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- a. Systems and methods for routing signals in an entertainment system
Easterbrook et al. (US 20040019914 A1)
- b. System and method for recording a signal using a central point of control
Perlman (US 20050132410 A1)
- c. SYSTEM FOR SYNCHRONIZED POWER SUPPLY CONTROL OVER A
PLURALITY OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY DETERMINING WHETHER ANY
ONE OF THE ELECTRONIC DEVICES CONFORMS TO A PREDETERMINED
CONDITION AND SYNCHRONOUSLY SWITCHING ON OR OFF EACH
DEVICE THAT SATISFIES THE PREDETERMINED CONDITION
Noda et al. (US 6789208 B2)
- d. Television set capable of controlling external device and image storage
controlled by television set
Ishino et al. (US 7016595 B1)

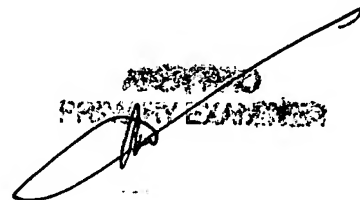
Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Findley whose telephone number is (571) 270-1199. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am-5pm, Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christopher Findley/

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a rectangular stamp. The stamp contains the text "RECEIVED" at the top, "EXAMINER" in the middle, and "CHRISTOPHER FINDLEY" at the bottom. The signature is a stylized, cursive-like name that spans across the stamp.